

1901

The

New Nest of Traitors

A Challenge to Whitney and Wright

**Plotting in the Tory Camp to Give Whitney
the Knife and Rid the Party of an
Incompetent Leader.**

"Sound the fellows and see how they feel about a new leader," says Organizer Wright "I can't pound an ounce of sense into Whitney's head. "See Wright," says Dr. Pyne, "he has had lots of experience in American Campaign Methods."

Owing to the fact that A. W. Wright, late of Philadelphia, U.S.A., the Conservative organizer has furnished interviews written by himself to the Tory papers with reference to the Mabee pamphlet I have decided to give to the public a few more details of the plot hatched in the Tory headquarters to depose the present leader of the Conservative party and of the organizer's connection therewith.

I feel now and always have felt that Wright's action in this respect was in the best interests of the party of which he is the chief organizer and were it not for the fact that he has deliberately misled the public in

the interviews above referred to I would not feel it my duty to give this information to the public.

Some time ago I sent out a few of the facts in my possession in the form of a declaration and I know the effect of the same. I am, if there is a false statement made in the declaration, liable to criminal prosecution. When I made the first declaration I did not deem it necessary to go any further than simply to protect myself. I however, am obliged to publish a little more of the information which I have in my possession, and it is for Wright and his friends to think it over before they make any more reckless assertions and urge me on to still further reveal the plot they hatched against Mr. Whitney. The books of the banks will show that I got money from the Conservatives for compiling a book for them. These facts cannot be disputed. I challenge Wright to produce proof to the contrary. Let him produce the bank books and he will there see recorded that I was paid by the Conservatives as stated. Let Wright show his sincerity by making a declaration before a proper legal official embodying the statements he has furnished the press. Let him do so and abide the consequences.

The whole matter rests between myself and Wright and the others who associate with him at the opposition headquarters, and in my declaration given below I give to the public some additional information on this matter, and I may, for my own protection, be obliged to further disclose the plot hatched by Wright and others. In the meantime, I challenge him to disprove any statement I have made and to give under oath the statements he so freely sends to the press. Little did myself or Mr. Whitney know of the plot when Mr. Whitney wrote saying he thought the idea of the American book a good one, and when he examined with me the cartoons for the conservative book and then recommended me to some of his followers, who then sent me to Wright.

My presence in the political game in Ontario is due entirely to Mr. Whitney, his supporters and organization. Let Wright furnish his statements as I do under oath and the people can then judge between us for themselves. I again challenge Wright to give under oath the statements he has been issuing in letters and interviews.

THE NEW NEST OF TRAITORS.

This little pamphlet is issued by myself at my own expense and is merely intended to correct the false impressions Wright and the Tory press have attempted to create.

Province of Ontario
Dominion of Canada
County of York.

CR Mabee.

To Wit

I Charles Ralph Mabee of the City of Toronto in the County of York, Publisher, do solemnly declare:

1. In the month of September, A.D. 1900, I sent to Col. Tisdale, M. P. for South Norfolk, a copy of the book, "McKinley in the Witness Box," and wrote him a letter asking him if he thought a similar book could be got out for the Conservative party in the Dominion campaign then going on. I wrote to him as I knew him personally, as I had lived in his Riding for years and my family were among his strongest supporters. Col. Tisdale wrote me in reply to the effect that

The Idea was a Good One

but it would have to be done at once to be of any use. He gave me the address of the Conservative headquarters in Toronto, and told me to write them at once and make a proposition. I did nothing more about it as I concluded that the time was too short to get out an effective book.

Whitney Endorsed the Idea

2. I came home to Canada early in January A. D. 1901, and shortly afterwards I became acquainted with Mr. R. Southam the Manager of the Mail Job Printing Company. I showed him a copy of the book "McKinley in the Witness Box" and he sent it on to Mr. Whitney. On or about the 11th day of February A. D., 1901, Mr. Southam handed me a letter which he had received from Mr. Whitney, dated February 9th, A. D. 1901, in which Mr. Whitney stated that he had the American campaign book, and thought the idea of a similar book in Ontario a good one. The said letter is now in my possession and was marked as an exhibit to a former declaration made by me.

THE NEW NEST OF TRAITORS.

Whitney Writes to Mabee

3. After this, and during the month of February I devoted some time to gathering material for a book in the interests of the Conservative party and had some cartoons prepared which I sent to Mr. Whitney. On the 8th day of March A.D., 1901, I received a letter from Mr. Whitney asking me to come and see him either at the Parliament Buildings or at the Grosvenor House with reference to the book. This letter is now in my possession and was marked as an exhibit to a former declaration made by me. Among other matters contained in said letter is a reference to the cartoons which I had sent to him.

Mabee Interviews Whitney

4. In answer to said letter I went and saw Mr. Whitney in his private room in the Parliament Buildings when he told me he was convinced that a publication similar to the American book, issued in the interests of the Conservative Party, would be of material benefit to the party. At this time he had in his possession some of the cartoons which he and some of his followers have since denounced, and was quite delighted with them. He told me to go and see Dr. Pyne and J. J. Foy with reference to the book and to meet him next time at his rooms in the Grosvenor House.

Pyne and Foy Endorse the Idea

5. On the following Sunday morning I had an interview with Dr. Pyne at his residence, and on Monday I had an interview with J. J. Foy in his office on Church street in the City of Toronto.

Both of these gentlemen coincided with Mr. Whitney's view of the matter and said that they thought the idea of such a book was a splendid one. Mr. Foy had a copy of the American book in his office and told me that he talked the whole matter over with Mr. Whitney. Dr. Pyne advised me to go and see A. W. Wright about it as Mr. Wright had had considerable experience in American campaign work and ought to be able to give some valuable assistance.

Whitney's Instructions to Mabee

6. Shortly after this I met Mr. Whitney in his rooms in the Grosvenor House and we then and there decided to publish the book. The chief topic of discussion between us was whether the book should be sent out free or a charge made for it. Mr. Whitney inclined to the view that it should be issued to candidates free and said that he thought it could be arranged with the Southam Publishing Syndicate to publish the book without any charge being made for it, as in the event of the Conservatives coming into power in Ontario this Syndicate would have the monopoly of all the Government printing. He said that there were only two other Conservative printing houses in Toronto, and that one of them, W. S. Johnston & Company, Adelaide Street West, was a small concern and did not have large enough plant to do the Government work, and the other, Charles Roddy, Lombard Street, already had the patronage of the City of Toronto and should be satisfied with that. He further said that he expected the Southam Syndicate to contribute very liberally to the Conservative campaign fund as his election would be worth a very great deal to them, and that they might as well do this work as part of their campaign contribution. He told me to see Mr. A. W. Wright and that he would also see him at once to instruct him to furnish me with material to assist me with the book and that he would also instruct him to make arrangements with the publishers.

Carrying Out the Instructions

7. I went several times to the Conservative headquarters to see Wright but the office was always closed and it was a week or ten days after the above interview that I succeeded in finding Mr. Wright. He and Dr. Beattie Nesbitt were together and I introduced myself to Mr. Wright. He in turn introduced me to Dr. Nesbitt. I asked to see Wright alone, but he said he knew all about it and that we could talk quite freely before the Doctor. They were both very enthusiastic about the book and said it should be issued as soon as possible. Mr. Wright said that the Mail Job Printing Company would print it and take the financial risk.

THE NEW NEST OF TRAITORS.

Several Took a Hand

8. I prepared some of the matter for the book myself, and some was furnished me by Mr. Wright, Mr. Whitney, Dr. Pyne and others, and I put this into shape. I remember that Mr. Whitney supplied me among other things, with some matter about the cost of maintenance of public institutions and the Royal Commission for the investigation of the financial standing of the Province. As I got the proof sheets from the printer I handed them to Mr. Wright who read the proof and made corrections in his own handwriting, and told me that he in turn handed them over to Mr. E. B. Osler, M.P., Mr. Whitney, M.P.P., Mr. Foy, M.P.P., Dr. Pyne, M.P.P., and others. Finally Mr. Wright told me that the literature Committee of the Conservative party had approved of the matter contained in the proofs and had decided that the book should be issued at once.

Publishers Expect Some Return

9. On several occasions Mr. R. Southam told me that he did not like the idea of taking the financial risk on the publication of the book, and thought that he should have some guarantee against any loss. I mentioned this to Wright who said he would see Mr. Whitney about it. He afterwards told me that he had spoken to Mr. Whitney about the matter and that Mr. Whitney had instructed him to go to Hamilton and see Mr. Southam, Senior, as he thought more could be done with him than with his son. About the end of May or first part of June, Wright and I went to Hamilton together and had an interview with Mr. Southam, Senior. Wright told him that he had been sent to him by Whitney and was authorized by him to say that he wanted Mr. Southam to see that the book was issued, and that in the event of Mr. Whitney winning the next election, he, Mr. Southam, would be well repaid. Mr. Southam then made some remarks about the sacrifices he had made for the Conservative party and how much the printing companies and newspapers controlled by him had done for the party, and said, "I certainly ex-

pect some return." He promised us that he would write his son Richard instructing him to go on with the printing of the book and said it would be issued even if he lost money on it. Wright had the proofs of the book with him and asked Mr. Southam to look them over as there was some "good hot stuff" in them. He said they were all right as Mr. Whitney had read them over and approved of them. Mr. Southam did not appear to be anxious to look at them, and dismissed us with the remark that he supposed they were all right as Mr. Whitney approved of them.

Whitney Read the Proofs

10. A few days afterwards I saw Mr. Southam, Senior, in the Mail office and he told his son Richard, in my presence, that he had learned from Mr. Wright that Mr. Whitney had read the proofs and had given his approval of them. It appeared to be settled that the Mail Job Printing Company were to go on and issue the book. Shortly after this Mr. Richard Southam made some further objection to taking the financial risk. He told me that his Company had an old claim against the Conservative organization for campaign literature which never had been paid, and he thought he would prefer not to have anything to do with the book until the claim was paid. He said, that as Manager of the Company the responsibility was on him to make a good financial showing at the end of the year. I told Wright about this and he asked me to go to W. S. Johnston and ask him to submit figures on the work. I went to Johnston's place of business on Adelaide street west, and he then went down to Wright's office where he obtained a copy of the American book and was asked to submit figures on a similar book. A day or so after this the Mail Job Printing Company finally decided to go on and issue the work, and the negotiations with Johnston were dropped. Wright afterwards laughed and said he thought he had done a pretty clever thing in using Johnston to bring Southam to time. I learned later, however, that Mr. Southam knew nothing about Wright's scheming with Johnston.

THE NEW NEST OF TRAITORS.

Mabee Received Tory Money

11. During the time that the book was in course of preparation I received from the Mail Job Printing Company several sums of money, partly in cash and partly in cheques on the Molson's Bank, and I also received from the said Company money for travelling expenses, paid to me partly in cash and partly by cheques on the said Molson's Bank. I also received about May or June, either three or four cheques from Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, payable to my order at a Branch Bank on Spadina Avenue. These were given to me by Dr. Nesbitt as he said "on the side" and to help along with the book. He asked me to give him anything that I thought would be "red hot" and new in the way of material for a speech, and said he would like to have me prepare some material for him on the personal expenses of the Cabinet Ministers, such as cab hire, street car tickets, etc. He said this was great stuff to catch the voters.

The Talk at Tory Headquarters

12. During the time the book was being prepared I did not come very much in contact with any of the members of the Conservative party outside of the city of Toronto and my own constituency of South Norfolk in which I spent part of my time at my home in Vittoria, and consequently did not realize the extent of the dissatisfaction with the leadership and management of the party. I had often heard Wright, Leavitt, Nesbitt and others in the Conservative headquarters on King street, Toronto, denounce Whitney for his conceit, overbearing manner, and total lack of political tact and business ability, but I did not pay very much attention to this as it was quite apparent that the Wright-Leavitt-Nesbitt crowd were down on Whitney, and that Whitney had no confidence in them but simply tolerated them because he had to. Wright told me one day when he was very angry about something that Whitney was so "self-opinionated that he could not pound an ounce of sense into his head." I am using Wright's actual words with

the expletives left out. Wright told me to wait until I got out into the constituencies and I would find out what the workers thought of their leader.

Tory Candidate Demands Money

13. When at my home in Vittoria during the summer, I came in contact with Mr. John L. Buck, the Conservative candidate for South Norfolk. We talked over the political situation and he informed me that Whitney wanted him to run again at the next election, but that he would not take chances again unless his election expenses were put up for him. Knowing that I was in contact with the leaders in Toronto he asked what I thought the chances were for financial help. I agreed to let him know when Whitney was expected in Toronto. I wrote him afterwards from Toronto that Mr. Whitney would be in the city on a certain day, and he wired me that he was coming down. I met him at the Union Depot and we went together to the Conservative headquarters and saw Mr. Whitney. Mr. Buck afterwards told me at lunch in Nasmith's restaurant that he had arranged matters all right, and that Mr. Whitney had assured him that he would have \$1,000.00, the whole amount to be paid to his brother at least one month before election. Mr. Buck repeated this again at the Union Depot that same evening to myself and three others. Mr. Buck told me that he had told Mr. Whitney that he wanted the money sent to his brother so that the Tisdale crowd in Simcoe would have nothing to do with it.

The Question of Leadership

14. In July and August I travelled over the Western part of Ontario in connection with the book. Before starting out Wright gave me a list of candidates in the present election and all the names of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Conservative Association, comprising the names of Presidents of electoral Division Associations, Conservative Members of the Legislature, Conservative Members of the House of Commons in Ontario, Conservative Senators in On-

tario and defeated candidates for the Legislature and House of Commons in Ontario at the last election. I still have this list in my possession as it was given to me by Wright. He asked me to call upon as many of them as possible and sound them on the question of holding a convention and appointing a new leader. He said that the plans were all laid and that if the fellows in the country were allright, he and Leavitt would resign and close up the headquarters office. "The Toronto World" newspaper would resume the agitation for a convention and six leading conservatives would issue the call for a convention.

General Dissatisfaction with Whitney

15. When I came in contact with the leading conservatives in several constituencies I found a very general dissatisfaction with the leadership of Mr. Whitney and fully as much with the work of the organizers. Some men told me that the grit organizers had been around helping the local grits with their voters' lists and holding organization meetings, while the tory organizers could not be found unless there was a chance to make a speech at some big meeting. They also complained that when they went to Toronto they would find the headquarters office closed and no one to give any information. I informed Wright of what I heard in this respect, and told him that if a convention were held he should be prepared to make some explanation about these matters. A great many country conservatives complained that the party was being run by the Albany Club, and that it was the only place to go, when in the city, to get any information. Several of them criticised Mr. Whitney very severely for spending \$76,000.00 on election protests, all to no purpose, except helping some Toronto lawyers to make a good thing out of it. Some of them remarked that if it were on hand then to distribute amongst the candidates they would have at least \$1,000.00 each to help them in looking after their voters' lists and paying the expenses of the campaign. Lack of confidence in Whitney, Foy and the Albany Club, and disgust with the gross mismanagement of the Party were apparent everywhere.

Maclean the Favorite

16. Some of the candidates whom I saw during my tour were: Charters of Peel, Carscallen of Hamilton, Wardell of North Wentworth, Jessop of Lincoln, Sutherland of South Oxford, Stewart of North Middlesex, Downey of South Wellington, Monteith of North Perth, Hanns of West Lambton, Beck of West Huron, Snider of North Norfolk, Herring of South Essex and Kribs of South Waterloo. In addition to these I went to some other ridings and did not succeed in finding the candidates at home, but in nearly all the ridings above mentioned I saw some of the men mentioned in the list given me by Wright. I canvassed every man I called upon with reference to the leadership and found an overwhelming feeling against both Whitney and Foy. I was surprised to find so many in favor of Dr. Nesbitt, but on enquiring closely into these causes, his strength seemed to come rather more from the fact that he was looked upon as a genial fellow and a good entertainer than from his being considered a man of any capacity for public life. Maclean was undoubtedly the favorite for leader. He was looked upon as being able and aggressive, and not likely to commit Whitney's fatal blunder of blindly fighting everything proposed by the liberals.

Money, Jealousy and Lack of Unity

17. Charters of Peel told me he would not have taken the nomination if he had thought he would have to pay his own election expenses. He said that Mr. Blain, M. P., was on the Financial Committee of the Ontario Conservative Association, and had promised him that he would see that his campaign did not cost him anything. He complained that he had already been to considerable expense and had not been able to get anything. He was down on Whitney for expending so much money on protests and leaving his candidates to put up their own expenses. He said he had been approached by one, Fitzgerald, who was feeling the ground on behalf of Maclean for leader, and had told Fitzgerald that he would support Maclean

if a convention were called. Downey of Guelph told me he had no use for Whitney. One of his objections was that he kept himself at an out-of-the-way hotel in Toronto, and it was hard for any of his followers to see him. He told me that he had remonstrated with Whitney about this. Carscallen of Hamilton said that he had talked with Whitney about the book, and that Whitney thought it would gain him a lot of votes. He said he would have the Hamilton Conservative Association order 1,000 books not later than October 1st. I had a long talk with him. He said that their party could win if there was not so much disorganization, and Whitney did not seem to be able to pull the boys together. He said,

Whitney was Jealous of Everybody

who possessed any ability or who might be likely to come to the front in the party. Sutherland of South Oxford did not think much of Whitney and favored Nesbitt. I saw, also, Messrs. Bullock and Patterson, the President and Secretary of the Association. Bullock favored Maclean and Patterson favored Foy. Jessop of Lincoln was sore on the whole crowd. He said that they hadn't a man fit for a leader, but considered Maclean the best of the crowd, and thought that steps should have been taken to get him into the Legislature. He was in favor of a convention being held to consider the question. Stewart of North Middlesex thought that Whitney lacked the necessary qualifications for a successful leader and seemed to feel sore over the treatment the candidate against Col. Leys, at the last London election had received from Whitney at the Shaw-Wood banquet in London. He did not know whom to favor, but thought that

Anybody Would be as Good as Whitney

Monteith of North Perth condemned Whitney for his management of the large protest fund, and would support either Nesbitt or Maclean. Hanna of West Lambton was for Whitney out and out, and thought he was an ideal leader. Beck of West Huron told me about a \$1,000.00 note which had been raised to

fight the Garrow protest to which he and five others had attached their names. He claimed that Mr. Whitney had promised him that it would be paid within three months from the time it was made, and that it had then been running in the Bank for over a year and nothing paid on it. He favored Maclean strongly for leader. Kribs of South Waterloo was down on everybody. He did not think that any of them were any good, and was so disgusted that he doubted very much if he would even be a candidate again. Herring of South Essex didn't care who was leader. He was quite satisfied with any of them so long as Herring could be elected for South Essex. He said that was all he cared about. Snider of North Norfolk did not have much to say except that he was disappointed with Whitney's management of the party.

Success Impossible under Whitney

18. After encountering such a diversity of opinion and such general dissatisfaction, I was convinced that the conservatives could not succeed under the present leadership, and that if by any chance the Liberal Government should be defeated, the affairs of the Province, with Whitney as Premier, would be so grossly mismanaged that the Conservatives would be turned out at the end of four years, and the Liberals again returned to power, probably for another thirty years.

Withdrew use of His Name

19. While my sympathies were always with the Conservative party I had gone into the scheme of publishing the book with the expectation of making some money out of it, and I found that I had been grossly misled by Messrs. Whitney, Wright, Nesbitt, and the rest of them. I told Wright, Leavitt and Nesbitt, that the only kind of a book which would appeal to the country Conservatives was one denouncing Whitney as leader of the party. They were still anxious to have the book got out, and Wright talked of raising a subscription which they expected W. R. Brock, M. P., to head with \$500.00, and then send the book

out at a reduced rate or give it away free. I told them they could pay me for what work I had done on it and I would draw out of it and let them issue it on their own responsibility. I immediately found out that they wanted me to take the responsibility for the many wild and inaccurate statements which they had themselves furnished me with. I then refused to have the book issued in my name, and took the plate of my signature away from the Mail office, with the result that the book still remains in cold type in the office of the Mail Job Printing Company.

Wright Plotting Against Whitney

20. When I mentioned to Wright that I thought the best selling book among Conservatives would be one denouncing Whitney as leader, he said it would be a good thing if such a book were got out at once and not left until it was too late to change leaders. He said he would help me all he could, provided I did not come out in favor of the Government, and he gave me the names of several people who could give me information about Whitney. I saw most of these people, and I have used some of the information gleaned from them, and some I have not used, for reasons which I can give if necessary.

Mabee Issues a Book of His Own

21. I do not pretend to possess any great political virtue, nor am I pharisaical like organizer Wright. I confess that my sympathies always were, and still are with the Conservative party. I found out, however, that the weight of argument in the coming campaign was on the side of the Government. I went to Alexander Smith and told him that I proposed to get out a pamphlet setting forth the condition of affairs as I studied them while working with the Conservative organization, and commanding the forward policy of the Government. I found that Mr. Smith had known about the Conservative book for months, which somewhat surprised me. He told me plainly that neither the Government nor the liberal party would have anything to do with my proposed

new book, but that if I would go ahead and get a book out on my own responsibility, he would write the Liberal candidates for whatever came to his notice of value to them, he made it his business to advise them of the same so that they would be posted on everything that concerned them in their campaign. This was not exactly what I wanted him to do, but I found that he was firm in his attitude, and I decided to go ahead on this plan with all speed, for I felt that 100,000 copies of the book compiled in the conservative headquarters would be issued by the conservative organization by November 1st. The new book, "Our Progress," was issued by Hunter, Rose & Company shortly after October 1st. The sale of the book has been large and is increasing, and the matter contained in it speaks for itself. I prepared the book, "Our Progress," myself from material which I looked up myself, and arranged myself with Hunter, Rose & Company for its publication.

Not Aided by Liberals

22. I have not received any assistance, financial or otherwise, from any person, in connection with the book, "Our Progress," nor do I expect to receive anything from anybody except through my publishers on the sale of the book. Wright knows that I have today proof sheets of the book, "Our Progress," with corrections and additions made in his own hand writing. The sentence at the bottom of page 6 in said book, as follows, "\$19,500 of this \$76,000 is now in the hands of Toronto politicians as profits," was suggested to me by Wright. He gave me the names of two Toronto Conservative lawyers, who he said had got the money, and wanted me to use their names, but I refused. He also wanted me to say that Whitney had got part of the money, but I refused to do this, also. Wright was the first man to give me the information about Whitney being deposed from the position of President of a Loan Company. He also asked me to say in the pamphlet that Whitney's greatest friend in Toronto was a man who had threatened to expose the secrets of the Conservative party unless he was paid so much money.

23. I have never consulted any member of the Government in his room or elsewhere, with reference to the book, "Our Progress," or had any conversation or communication in any way with any member of the Government with reference thereto, and any statement to the contrary is deliberately false.

Dr. Nesbitt Fears Results

24. Since the publication of the book "Our Progress," Dr. Beattie Nesbitt sent a messenger to my house that he wanted me to come and see him at his residence. The message came at a very late hour on Saturday, October 19th last, and I called at his residence on Sunday morning, October 20th, and had a talk with him, lasting over an hour. He first said he wanted about 50 copies of the book, and I told him to go to Hunter, Rose & Co. for them, which he did next morning. He then asked me for the letter which he had given me recommending the book, which had been prepared for the Conservative party. I told him that I did not have it with me, but that I would let him have it when I was through with it. He asked me, as a personal favor, not to let it become public, as it showed that Whitney had read and approved of the book, and that Whitney now denied that. He said he had no use for Whitney, but the publication of his letter would injure him (Nesbitt) very much with the Conservative party. He pleaded so hard that I would have promised not to publish it had it not been that it was necessary to do so for my own protection.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

Declared before me at the
city of Toronto in the Coun-
ty of York, this 15th day of
November, A. D., 1901.

(Signed)

CHAS. R. MABEE.

(Signed) DONALD MacDONALD,
A Commissioner, etc.